

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00025 101107Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W
-----104953 101142Z /21

R 100810Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 538
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0025

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, EAID, DJ, LY
SUBJ: DJIBOUTI-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO DJIBOUTI, GALAL BAGHARILY, RECENTLY RETURNED
TO
DJIBOUTI AFTER A LONG STAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE
HAD

TAKEN A NEEDED VACATION FOLLWOING TREATMENT IN ROME FOR AN EYE INFECT
ION
WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED IN DJIBOUTI. AMBASSADOR GALAL IS A FORMER
MILITARY OFFICER WHO CLAIMS TO BE A FORMER TEACHER (IN OFFICER'S TRAI
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SCHOOL) AND A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF OF PRESIDENT KHADAFI. THE AMB
IS FRIENDLY AND APPARENTLY DEEPLY COMMITTED TO BETTER RELATIONS BETWE
EN
THE U.S. AND LIBYA.

2. IN A LENGTHY MEETING IN HIS OFFICE ON 3 JAN, THE LIBYAN ENVOY
REVEALED THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED THE DAY

BEFORE AND HAD DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM HIS COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT. THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT MESSAGE WAS AN APPEAL FOR NATIONAL UNITY. NOTING THAT LIBYA WAS ALLIED TO DJIBOUTI AS BOTH AN AFRICAN AND AN ARAB STATE, THE LIBYAN AMB NOTED HIS FRUSTRATIONS AT WORKING IN DJIBOUTI. HE STATED THAT HIS COUNTRY SUSPENDED ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DJIBOUTI AFTER IT APPEARED THAT SUBSTANTIAL DIVISIONS HAD APPEARED IN THE GOVT. THIS ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN LARGELY PLANNED FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR.

3. AMB GALAL OBSERVED THAT DJIBOUTI HAD TO BE EVENHANDED IN ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALIA, BUT HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN MAINTAINING PROPER BALANCE. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SUCCEED IN REINTEGRATING THE AFARS INTO THE GOVT.

4. THE LIBYAN AMB CONCLUDED HIS DISCUSSION WITH A LENGTHY PLEA FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LIBYA. HE STATED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST DESIRES OF HIS NATION'S LEADER. WITH A BROAD SMILE, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE AN ASSIGNMENT HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO ACCEPT.

5. HAVING NO IDEA WHERE THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ARE AT THE PRESENT TIME, I CONTENTED THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT I WOULD PASS ON HIS VIEWS. AN EARNEST, PLEASANT GENTLEMAN WITH A GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH, I COMMEND HIS AS A GOOD
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CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB INDICATED.
CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DJIBOU00025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0697
Format: TEL
From: DJIBOUTI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780182/aaaacqzq.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ddad6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3803058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DJIBOUTI-LIBYAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PDIP, EAID, PEPR, DJ, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ddad6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014